



Dear Friends of NNJSC,

November, 2023

You are now reading Newsletter No.6, the second one of 2023. Since our last Newsletter sent in July 2023, NNJSC held its first major fundraiser since the beginning of Covid, and the first dinner fundraiser (that is, getting together in person) since 2019. Perhaps it was due to the elapse of 4 years since we had done this, perhaps it was due to the send-off we gave our wonderful founder and first president, Dr. Joseph Chuman, perhaps it was due to the two former clients who spoke briefly about the meaning of NNJSC in their lives, or to the wonderful catered dinner by Al Basha of Paterson, NJ, the wonderful setting at Temple Emeth in Teaneck, or our two professional musicians, or perhaps it was due to a combination of all of these that we had our largest audience and most successful fundraiser yet.



One of the client speakers was Chause, originally from Uganda, who came from Texas to the dinner accompanied by his recently immigrated wife and sons, all of whom spent the weekend in NJ with NNJSC trustee and friend, Elizabeth Ames. The other client speaker was Hawa, who in 2018 was hosted by Elizabeth, at which time she had shared a delicacy brought from Chad.





Not long after this wonderful event, we held our yearly plant sale, another type of fundraiser on a smaller scale, but one which would not be possible without the hard work and generous donation of a wide variety of plants grown by supporters Rachel and Moshe Banai at their home in Teaneck. As an all-volunteer organization with 95% of the work of helping asylum seekers being performed by our 17-20 board members plus one volunteer bookkeeper, we must be constantly trying to raise money in any way possible. Every donation, large and small, enables NNJSC to do its work. Following is a picture from this year's plant sale, plus a picture of one trustee's favorite plant, acquired at this year's sale.



At NNJSC board meetings, which are open to all, periodic ½ hour educational sessions are held. In October, Catherine Weiss, Chair of the Lowenstein Center for Public Interest and a partner at Lowenstein Sandler, which provides pro bono services to asylum seekers, gave an excellent summary of the crisis affecting those crossing our southern border with respect to the more than 4,000 children who were separated from their families, and the ongoing difficulties in finding and reuniting them with their families.

Finally, it should be noted that while this Newsletter attempts to bring you the good news, the life of our clients rarely follows a smooth trajectory. Medical issues, when present, are often of lengthy duration; obtaining and maintaining employment and satisfactory housing present constant and repeated problems due to a host of causes - ranging from lack of sufficient education and fluency in English to bureaucratic logjams and persistent prejudice against immigrants which these people face in the U.S.

Little by little, those who volunteer to help individuals or families who have left their homes due to fear for their lives, either by joining the board of NNJSC or by contributing financially or with your knowledge and expertise, or by opening your home as a temporary host, you experience a very personal reward in return and raise the standing of our country abroad. As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, NNJSC gives thanks to all of you who have contributed, including individuals, multiple religious and humanitarian organizations, the Community Foundation of New Jersey, the Dreitzer Foundation, and the Puffin Foundation. We can be followed or contacted on www.nnjsanctuary.org.